(a) Whether textile industry is facing problems because of outdated technologies;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has affected the overall functioning of the textile industry and its impact on the export of Indian textiles; and

(c) the steps taken for the modernisation of the textile industry in the country.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) While the spinning sector is by and large using modern technology and is competitive enough, there is scope for modernisation of technology in the weaving sector, processing sector and the handloom sector for improvement in quality and value addition.

(b) Despite need for technological upgradation, the production of textiles and their exports have increased consistently during the last five years.

(c) The following major steps have been taken for the modernisation of textile industry:-

(i) Funding at concessional rate of interest was provided through Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme launched in August, 1986 with IDBI as the Operating Agency to meet the fund requirements for modernisation. Although the Scheme has since been discontinued an amount of Rs. 897.48 crores had been disbursed as on 31.12.1993. Financial institutions continued to extend assistance to the textile units for their modernisation.

(ii) Under the EPCG Scheme, the exporters are allowed to import capital goods at reduced or zero rate of duty. The threshold limit under the Scheme has also been reduced for apparel sector from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 1 crore.

(iii) Import of 138 priority items of textile machinery essential for modernisation in the weaving, knitting and processing is permitted at a concessional rate of duty.

(iv) 15% of the quota under bilateral agreement is earmarked for allotment on the basis of investment in the textile industry, so that there may be more investment in this industry. A similar quota of 10% operates for the apparel industry.

(v) Keeping in view the urgent need for modernisation and technological upgradation of ginning, weaving and processing sectors of the textile industry, a proposal to create a Textile Upgradation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 25,000 crores to provide a concessional rate of interest is under the consideration of the Government.

(vi) Financial assistance for setting up of 11 Eco-Laboratories in the first phase during 1995-96 at important textile centres all over the country has been given by the Government. In order to further augment eco and quality testing facilities, the Ministry of Textiles established/upgraded 14 laboratories during 1996-97 and 17 laboratories during 1997-98 at different centres.

(vii) Government has decided to launch a Technology Mission for Cotton, basically for the improvement of production, productivity and quality of cotton, which will have beneficial impact on the downstream textile products in terms of quality an value additions etc.

Relief to Workers of closed Textile Mills in Public Sector

869. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications from closed PSU Textile mills pending with the Regional Textile Commissioner Office, Amritsar and other Regional Offices at present for payment under the Textile Workers' Relief Fund Scheme;

(b) since when these applications have been pending and the reasons for keeping only the applications pertaining to PSU closed mills pending when the TWRF Scheme was introduced for the all closed mills; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to immediately provide relief under the TWRF Scheme in respect of workers of the closed PSU Textile Mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) has not so far been extended to Central and State PSUs.

उड़ीसा, मध्यप्रदेश और गुजरात में वस्त्र प्रसंस्करण इकाइयों की स्थापना

870. श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ल: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उड़ीसा, मध्य प्रदेश और गुजरात में वस्त्र प्रसंस्करण इकाइयों की स्थापना संबंधी कोई परियोजनाएं केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास अनुमोदनार्थ लम्बित पड़ी है;

(ख) यदि हां तो तत्संबंधी परियोजना-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इन परियोजनाओं की लागत-राशि कितनी है;

(घ) इन परियोजनाओं के संबंध में कोई निर्णय लेने में बिलिम्ब किये जाने के क्या कारण है; और

(ङ.) इस संबंधी में निर्णय कब निर्णय तक लिये जाने की संभावना है,

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) से (ड़) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Grant for National Centre for Jute Diversification

871. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1689 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th August, 1997 and state:

(a) whether National Centre for the Diversification got Rs. 12.59 lakhs US $ and matching grant of Rs. 4.90 crore from Government;

(b) if so, the details of the projects undertaken by National Centre for Jute Diversification and how it has helped diversification and marketing; and

(c) the organisational set up of National Centre for Jute Diversification?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir, NCJD received a grant of US $ 13.06 lakh from UNDP and a grant of Rs. 4.9 crore from Government of India.

(b) NCJD has undertaken the following projects for the benefit of entrepreneurs and NGO's: (1) Jute Service Centre Scheme (2) Jute Yarn Bank Scheme. (3) Market Support Scheme (4) Design Development Scheme. (5) Entrepreneurial Assistance under JEA Scheme and Support to NGO's (6) HRD linkage, awareness programme and dissemination of information in collaboration with state Government for benefit of NGO's.

The above schemme have helped to enhance the demand for jute fibre thus ensuring remunerative price to jute farmers, development of new end uses and markets for diversified jute products.

(c) NCJD is registered society Governed by a Council of Governors with Secretary (Textiles) as Chairman and 25 other members from Govt, and Jute releated institutions, entrepreneurs and others. An Executive Committee of NCJD is headed by Joint Secretary (Jute) with financial advisor, Jute Commissioner and National Programme Manager (Jute) as members. The registered office of NCJD is at New Delhi and Head Office is at Calcutta.

UNDP Budget for Jute Corporation of India

872. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1689 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th August, 1997 and state:

(a) whether under UNDP budget over 2.5 lakh US$ were allocated to Jute Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the matching grant provided by Government to Jute Corporation of India (JCI); and

(c) the details of the projects with financial input and the return achieved with quantifiable terms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, UNDP allocated a sum of US$ 2.39 lakhs and Government of India provided a sum of Rs. 35